

Amendments to the Claims

The following list of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

List of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for identifying a subject at risk of developing hypertensive end organ damage or complications of hypertensive end organ damage, comprising:
 - (a) ~~obtaining a biological sample of said subject;~~
 - (b) ~~determining~~ detecting the level of galectin-3 in a biological sample from a human subject and at least one non-myoeitical marker in said sample;
 - (c) comparing the level of said marker galectin-3 to a standard level indicative of risk of developing hypertensive end organ damage or complications of hypertensive end organ damage;and
 - (d) ~~determining whether the level of the marker is indicative of a risk. For developing hypertensive end organ damage.~~
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is a serum or plasma sample derived from peripheral blood.
- 3-4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended): The method of claim 3, ~~wherein the non-myoeitical marker is 1,~~ further comprising comparing the level of thrombospondin-2 in the sample to a standard level indicative of hypertensive end organ damage risk.
6. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the level of ~~the marker~~ galectin-3 is measured by an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA).
- 7-13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is a serum or plasma sample derived from peripheral blood and wherein the level of ~~the marker~~ galectin-3 is measured by ELISA.
- 15-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the standard level is indicative of risk of developing congestive heart failure or developing complications of congestive heart failure.
22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the biological sample is from a patient with cardiovascular disease.
23. (New) A method for identifying a subject at risk of developing heart failure or developing complications of heart failure, the method comprising measuring the level of galectin-3 in a biological sample from a human subject and comparing the level of galectin-3 to a standard level indicative of heart failure risk, wherein an elevated level of galectin-3 in the sample indicates a risk of developing heart failure or developing complications of heart failure.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the sample is a serum or plasma sample derived from peripheral blood.
25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the standard level is a level indicative of the risk of developing congestive heart failure or developing complications of congestive heart failure.
26. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the standard level is based on the level of galectin-3 in healthy subjects.
27. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the biological sample is from a patient with cardiovascular disease.
28. (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising measuring the level of thrombospondin-2 in the sample and comparing the level of thrombospondin-2 to a standard level indicative of heart failure risk.
29. (New) A method of identifying a risk of developing congestive heart failure or developing complications of congestive heart failure in a patient with cardiovascular disease, the method comprising measuring a level of galectin-3 in a sample from the patient and comparing it to a standard level indicative of a risk of developing congestive heart failure or developing complications of congestive heart failure, wherein an elevated level of galectin-3 in the sample indicates a risk of developing congestive heart failure or developing complications of congestive heart failure.

30. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the sample is a serum or plasma sample derived from peripheral blood.

31. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the standard level is a level indicative of the risk of developing congestive heart failure or developing complications of congestive heart failure.

32. (New) The method of claim 29, wherein the standard level is based on the level of galectin-3 in healthy subjects.

33. (New) The method of claim 29, further comprising measuring the level of thrombospondin-2 in the sample and comparing the level of thrombospondin-2 to a standard level indicative of congestive heart failure risk.